UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FIFTIETH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
41st meeting
held on
Tuesday, 5 December 1995
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 41st MEETING

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/50/SR.41
18 January 1996

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95-82627 (E)

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AGENDA ITEM 97: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(b) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 94: MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.6 and L.56)

(a) FINANCING OF DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolutions on global financial integration: challenges and opportunities (A/C.2/50/L.6 and L.56)

1. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.56 which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.6, drew attention to the following changes. The first line of the seventh preambular paragraph should read: "Expressing concern, within such a context, at the decline in real terms in the last three years ...", and in paragraph 6, the word "presupposing" in the penultimate line should be deleted.

2. Mr. FLORENCIO (Brazil) proposed a minor editorial change to paragraph 7.

3. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.56, as orally revised, was adopted.

4. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.6 was withdrawn.

AGENDA ITEM 95: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.18, L.20, L.21, L.27, L.30, L.50, L.51, L.53, L.57)

(a) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries (A/C.2/50/L.18)

5. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, said that no consensus had been reached on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.18 and he therefore suggested that it should be put to the vote.

6. A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian

Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Kazakstan, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.

7. The draft resolution was adopted by 79 votes to 27, with 19 abstentions.*

Draft resolutions on the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (A/C.2/50/L.20 and L.50)

8. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.50, submitted on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.20, said that consensus had been reached. He pointed out that in paragraph 4, the word "possible" should be inserted after the word "highest".

9. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.50, as orally revised, was adopted.

10. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.20 was withdrawn.

(b) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (continued)

Draft resolutions on the Commission on Human Settlements (A/C.2/50/L.30 and L.53)

11. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.53, submitted on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.30, said that consensus had been reached on the text and that paragraph 4 should be deleted.

12. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.53, as orally revised, was adopted.

13. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.30 was withdrawn.

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* The delegations of Nigeria and Tunisia subsequently informed the Committee that they had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

(c) UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II) (continued)

Draft resolutions on the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (A/C.2/50/L.27 and L.57)

14. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the statement on programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/50/L.44.

15. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.57, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.27, pointed out that the end of the fourth preambular paragraph should read: "for the purpose of guiding the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference,".

16. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.57, as orally revised, was adopted.

17. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.27 was withdrawn.

(k) FOOD AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolutions on the World Food Summit (A/C.2/50/L.21 and L.51)

18. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.51, which he was submitting on the basis of informal discussions held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.21, indicated that the word "substantial" in the first line of paragraph 4 should be deleted.

19. Mr. DUNLAVEY (United States) said that while his delegation had withdrawn its opposition to draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.51, it remained concerned that the resolution would obscure the fact that the World Food Summit was not yet another global conference mandated by the General Assembly, but was being convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. His Government supported the Summit and its proposed focus on food security. The Summit should examine realistic approaches to food security and its goal should be to achieve practical results.

20. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.51, as orally revised, was adopted.

21. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.21 was withdrawn.

AGENDA ITEM 96: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued)
(A/C.2/50/L.5, L.22, L.29, L.33, L.49, L.52 and L.54)

(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolutions on the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (A/C.2/50/L.22 and L.54)

22. Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Committee) read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.54, noting that it was envisaged that the two-week Conference of the Parties referred to in paragraph 5 would have four meetings per day with interpretation and documentation services in all six languages. For costing purposes Geneva had been considered the location of the Conference. On the basis of those assumptions, the conference-servicing requirements for the Conference had been estimated at $700,500 at full cost. Since those requirements would be dealt with within the overall provisions for the conference servicing of the United Nations meetings and conferences reserved under section 26E in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, no additional appropriation would be required. Activities envisaged under other paragraphs of the draft resolution would have no programme budget implications.

23. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.54, submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.22, and recommended it for adoption by the Committee.

24. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.54 was adopted.

25. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.22 was withdrawn.

(b) DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT (continued)

Draft resolutions on desertification and drought (A/C.2/50/L.29 and L.52)

26. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.52, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.29, and recommended it for adoption by consensus.

27. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.52 was adopted.

28. Ms. WHELTON (Canada) said that in order to address the serious issue of drought and desertification in a comprehensive manner, in future the two sub-items should be covered by one draft resolution.

29. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.29 was withdrawn.

(d) PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND (continued)

Draft resolution on the protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (A/C.2/50/L.33)

30. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the statement of programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/50/L.49.

31. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, reporting on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.33, said that consensus had been reached on the text and recommended its adoption.

32. Mr. LANGLEY (New Zealand) said that his delegation reserved its position on the draft resolution although it would not stand in the way of consensus. His delegation did not support the institutional linkage referred to in paragraph 2, nor did it agree to committing United Nations resources to a body not wholly responsible to the United Nations. The draft resolution would establish two lines of accountability - one to the Secretary-General and one to the Conference of the Parties. Experience showed that that would not work in an acceptable manner.

33. If placing the Convention's administrative and conference-servicing costs entirely within the Convention's budgets resulted in an increase in assessed contributions for States Parties, New Zealand would be ready to meet its increased contributions. Alternatively, it would support funding from the regular budget, but only on condition that the secretariat was fully accountable within the United Nations structure. That issue was a financial and administrative question which should be addressed in the Fifth Committee.

34. Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States of America) said that while her delegation would not block consensus on the draft resolution, it disassociated itself from the language of the text, specifically paragraphs 8 and 9, which referred to the unique funding arrangements that had been proposed to support the secretariat for the Framework Convention on Climate Change. She had a serious problem with the funding solution that delegations had accepted for the climate change secretariat.

35. Her Government's political commitment to the Convention remained strong as did its commitment to ensure that the United States was part of the solution to the burgeoning budget crisis of the United Nations. Deciding at a high-level conference to have the United Nations system subsidize a convention secretariat was not an effective solution. The United States would not lend its support to a funding mechanism - regardless of how "provisional" it was intended to be - that resulted in increasing rather than reducing the expenses of the United Nations general budget.

36. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.33 was adopted.

(f) INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION (continued)

Draft resolution on an international decade for natural disaster reduction (A/C.2/50/L.5)

37. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, reporting on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.5, said that consensus had been reached on the text. He recommended its adoption by the Committee.

38. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.5 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 97: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.24 and L.48)

(b) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

Draft resolutions on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation (A/C.2/50/L.24 and L.48)

39. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.48, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.24, and recommended it for adoption by the Committee.

40. Mr. MURAOKA (Japan) said that his delegation would have joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.24.

41. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.48 was adopted.

42. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.24 was withdrawn.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FIFTIETH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
42nd meeting
held on
Friday, 8 December 1995
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 42nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PETRESKI (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

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26 January 1996

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The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.14 and L.64)

Draft resolutions on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system (A/C.2/50/L.14 and L.64)

1. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.64, submitted on the basis of informal consultations on document A/C.2/50/L.14. The words "of the Secretariat" in the first line of paragraph 3 should be deleted. The last portion of paragraph 7, beginning with the words "and, in this context,", should be inserted at the end of paragraph 1 and the remainder of paragraph 7 should be deleted. He recommended the draft resolution, as orally revised, for adoption by consensus.

2. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.64, as orally revised, was adopted.

3. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.14 was withdrawn.

4. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the notes by the Secretary-General on the United Nations Population Award (A/50/132), Progress in the implementation of the global AIDS strategy (A/50/175-E/1995/57), and Revision of the general regulations of the World Food Programme and reconstitution of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes as the Executive Board of the World Food Programme (A/50/706).

5. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 95: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.19 and L.59)

(a) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolutions on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries (A/C.2/50/L.19 and L.59)

6. Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Committee), commenting on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.59, said that the draft resolution would request the Secretary-General to convene in 1997, within the overall level of resources for the biennium 1996-1997, another meeting of governmental experts from land-locked and transit developing countries, representatives of donor countries and financial and development institutions. The meeting, to be held in Geneva in 1997, would be of one week's duration and would require documentation, interpretation and other language services.

7. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.59, submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft

resolution A/C.2/50/L.19. Consensus had been reached during informal consultations, and he therefore recommended the draft resolution for adoption.

8. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.59 was adopted.

9. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.19 was withdrawn.

(d) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.38 and L.62; and L.25 and L.68)

Draft resolutions on the United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa (A/C.2/50/L.38 and L.62)

10. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.62, submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.38. Consensus had been reached during informal consultations and he therefore recommended the draft resolution for adoption.

11. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.62 was adopted.

12. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.38 was withdrawn.

Draft resolutions on science and technology for development (A/C.2/50/L.25 and L.68)

13. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.68, submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.25. Consensus had been reached during the informal consultations. He wished, however, to draw the Committee's attention to a number of editorial changes. In the sixth line of paragraph 2, the words "as well as to modify" should be deleted and the word "to" should be inserted after "and". In paragraph 3, the phrase "to meet all the objectives affirmed in Chapter 34" should be revised to read "to meet all the objectives as reaffirmed in Chapter 34". The word "vital" in paragraph 5 should be replaced by "important". In paragraph 11, the word "welcomes" should be deleted, and the words "so that they would have a" in paragraph 14 should be replaced by the word "for".

14. Mr. SHINODA (Japan) said that Japan attached great importance to the issue of science and technology for development and had therefore taken an active part in the discussion of the draft resolution and had joined in its adoption by consensus. In the light of the form which the draft resolution had taken, however, he wished to make an important point for the record.

15. During the deliberations on an agenda for development, Japan had stressed the importance of establishing a development strategy for each developing country in accordance with its stage of development and the particular conditions that prevailed in its domestic economy. Individual strategies must likewise be formulated on the basis of the needs of developing countries in the area of science and technology for development, since the needs of small island States differed from those of States that were land-locked, and tropical countries had different needs from those in temperate zones.

16. Assistance could only be effective if it was directed where needed. The draft resolution failed to take fully into account the specific needs of

individual countries and therefore required no specific effort to meet those needs. In those circumstances, it was difficult to see how the draft resolution could achieve the objectives set out in it.

17. Mr. CABACTULAN (Philippines) said that, while he appreciated the editors' help in refining the texts of draft resolutions agreed upon by the Committee, editors should consult with the coordinators of informal consultations about proposed changes to texts in order to avoid unnecessary delays and to facilitate the Committee's work in general. The replacement of the word "vital" by "important" in paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.68, for example, could not be construed as a mere editorial correction.

18. The statement just made by the representative of Japan raised a number of concerns for his delegation. Many of the positions taken by Japan during the informal consultations had been accommodated in the draft resolution. Inevitably, however, such a draft resolution was the result of a process of give and take and represented the best result that could be achieved at that point in time. The provisions of the draft resolution were of critical importance to developing countries as a whole, whatever their individual circumstances. Moreover, it was important for the international community to respect the political solidarity displayed by the developing countries.

19. The CHAIRMAN observed that editors could not change at their discretion texts which had been agreed upon by delegations.

20. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.68, as orally revised, was adopted.

21. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.25 was withdrawn.

22. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of sub-item 95 (d).

(f) WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolutions on women in development (A/C.2/50/L.46 and L.66)

23. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.66, submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.46. He wished to draw the Committee's attention to a number of editorial changes. In paragraph 6, the words "at the above-mentioned Conference" should be replaced by "in Beijing" and the phrase "an enabling environment by, inter alia, removing" should be changed to read "an enabling environment through, inter alia, by removing". In paragraph 10, the phrase "by increasing women's access" should be changed to read "through increased access" and, in the fifth line, the word "by" should be inserted after "as well as". Consensus had been reached during informal consultations, and he therefore recommended the draft resolution for adoption.

24. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.66, as orally revised, was adopted.

25. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.46 was withdrawn.

26. Mrs. HORIUCHI (Japan) said that "Women in development" was an important area to be promoted with a view to the advancement of women. Her delegation therefore strongly supported draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.66. However, it was regrettable that neither the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) nor the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) had been mentioned in the draft resolution, since both of those organizations were undertaking development assistance solely for the empowerment of women.

27. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.46 was withdrawn.

(g) HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolutions on developing human resources for development (A/C.2/50/L.34 and L.70)

28. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.70, submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on A/C.2/50/L.34.

29. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.70 was adopted.

30. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.34 was withdrawn.

(j) UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION (continued)

Draft resolutions on a United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation (A/C.2/50/L.36 and L.60)

31. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.60, submitted on the basis of informal consultations on A/C.2/50/L.36.

32. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.60 was adopted.

33. Mr. DELANEY (Papua New Guinea) said that the member States of the South Pacific Forum, which included his country, attached great importance to the United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation. The United Nations Panel on Opportunity and Participation consisted of individual experts from within and outside the United Nations system; the work of the Panel, together with the report it had produced, was the first step in the development of the concept and in promoting its wider practical application. The draft resolution just adopted left many windows open for the international community to continue its support for efforts being made by national Governments to create more opportunities and encourage broader participation by all people in social and economic development activities.

34. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.36 was withdrawn.

AGENDA ITEM 96: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.28, L.35, L.69 and L.71)

Draft resolutions on the Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/C.2/50/L.28 and L.69)

35. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.69, submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.28.

36. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.69 was adopted.

37. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.28 was withdrawn.

(f) INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION (continued)

Draft resolutions on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/C.2/50/L.35 and L.71)

38. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.71, submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.35 and drew attention to one minor drafting change. In paragraph 9, third line, the words "by, inter alia," should be replaced by the words "including through".

39. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.71, as orally revised, was adopted.

40. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.35 was withdrawn.

Draft decision on the report of the Secretary-General on core functions of the decade (A/50/521)

41. The CHAIRMAN introduced a draft decision, for consideration under sub-item 96 (f), which would read as follows: "The General Assembly takes note of document A/50/521, Report of the Secretary-General on core functions of the decade, submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/47 B."

42. The draft decision was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 98: TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.43 and L.63)

Draft resolutions on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/C.2/50/L.43 and L.63)

43. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.63, submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.43. He drew attention to a number of minor drafting changes and to the need to insert "33rd" in paragraph 3 before the reference to the session of the Board. In addition, in paragraph 5, the words "office of" before "Executive Director" should be deleted.

44. Mr. ALIOU (Cameroon) drew attention to an amendment required in order to bring paragraph 5 of the French text into line with the English. In line 1 of paragraph 5, after the word "mesures", the word "appropriées" should be inserted.

45. Draft resolution E/C.2/50/L.63, as orally corrected, was adopted.

46. Draft resolution E/C.2/50/L.43 was withdrawn.

AGENDA ITEM 100: RENEWAL OF THE DIALOGUE ON STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.11 and L.67)

Draft resolutions on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership (A/C.2/50/L.11 and L.67)

47. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.67, submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.11, and drew attention to one drafting change.

48. Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States) said that her delegation attached great importance to the draft resolution on the renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership. However, she wished to register her delegation's strong reservations with respect to paragraph 2 of the proposed resolution. She reaffirmed that it was the understanding of the United States that the term "sustained economic growth" as it appeared in resolutions referred to growth in the context of sustainable development as referred to in paragraph 6 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and affirmed by the Heads of State and/or Heads of Government from over 130 countries at the World Summit for Social Development. The paragraph in full read:

> "We are deeply convinced that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people. Equitable social development that recognizes empowering the poor to utilize environmental resources sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development. We also recognize that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice."

She asked that her statement should be reflected in full in the record of the meeting.

49. Ms. WONG (Australia) and Mr. LANGLEY (New Zealand) said that their delegations wished to associate themselves fully with draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.67.

50. Mr. MONTOYO (Colombia) welcomed the statements made by the representatives of Australia and New Zealand. He proposed two amendments to the Spanish text of the draft resolutions. In paragraph 5, the words "tema central" should be replaced by the words "foco de la discusión". In paragraph 6, the word "grandes" should be replaced by the word "principales".

51. Mr. CABACTULAN (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the statements made by the delegations of Australia and New Zealand and expressed his appreciation to them for their positive interventions relating to the very important resolution under consideration.

52. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.67, as orally amended, was adopted.

53. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.11 was withdrawn.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FIFTIETH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
43rd meeting
held on
Tuesday, 12 December 1995
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 43rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PETRESKI (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 94: MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.7, L.15, L.74 and L.75; A/50/397 and 429)

(a) FINANCING OF DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on sources for the financing of development (A/C.2/50/L.15 and L.74)

1. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.74, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.15. He recommended its adoption by consensus.

2. Mr. CABACTULAN (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, confirmed that a consensus had indeed been reached on the text of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.74. At the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, however, the day would come when a decision would have to be taken on the convening of an international conference on the financing of development; it could not be postponed indefinitely. The Secretariat could assist in reaching that decision by providing the Committee with comprehensive and meaningful studies on development financing, in the meantime.

3. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.74 was adopted.

4. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.15 was withdrawn.

5. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of the potential sources of financing for development contained in document A/50/397.

6. It was so decided.

(b) LONG-TERM TRENDS IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/50/429)

7. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the overall socio-economic perspective of the world economy to the year 2000 contained in document A/50/429.

8. It was so decided.

(c) EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.7 and L.75)

9. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.75, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.7.

10. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.75 was adopted.

11. Ms. LEBL (United States of America) said that her delegation wished to register its reservations on preambular paragraphs 15 and 17 and paragraphs 2 and 13 of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.75. She reaffirmed that the United States understood the term "sustained economic growth" as referring to "growth in the context of sustainable development", consistent with paragraph 6 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, which read as follows: "We are convinced that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people. Equitable social development that recognizes empowering the poor to utilize environmental resources sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development. We also recognize that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice."

12. The United States had implemented and would continue to implement its Uruguay Round obligations, and stressed that it was of critical importance for other members of the World Trade Organization to do so as well. However, it understood the references in paragraph 16 to "full implementation" of those obligations regarding the least developed and net food-importing developing countries as calling for nothing more than the establishment of the "appropriate mechanisms" referred to in the Marrakech Ministerial Decision on measures concerning the possible negative effects of the reform programme on the least developed and net food-importing developing countries.

13. Mr. CABACTULAN (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the text of the draft resolution built on existing momentum and also introduced new concepts. In reply to the United States delegation, he pointed out that there was already broad acceptance of the meaning of the term "sustained economic growth and development" among the international community.

14. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.7 was withdrawn.

AGENDA ITEM 95: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.17, L.31, L.39, L.40, L.61, L.72, L.73, L.76, L.77 and L.80; A/50/411, 486, 487 and 746)

Draft resolutions on the second industrial decade for Africa (A/C.2/L.40 and L.76)

15. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.76, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.40.

16. Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States of America), said that her delegation had a reservation on preambular paragraph 5, and reaffirmed that, for the United States, whenever the term "sustained economic growth" appeared in the resolution, it was its understanding that the term referred to "growth in the

context of sustainable development", consistent with paragraph 6 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development.

17. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.76 was adopted.

18. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.40 was withdrawn.

19. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002) (A/50/487).

20. It was so decided.

(a) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolutions on international trade and development (A/C.2/50/L.17 and L.73)

21. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.73, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.17, and made several revisions to its text. In the seventh line of the first preambular paragraph, the words "and conferences" should be inserted after "agreements". In the thirteenth preambular paragraph, in the third line, "developing" should be inserted before "countries", and in the fourth line, "included" should be replaced by "agreed". In the fifteenth preambular paragraph, the phrase "of 4 May 1995" should be inserted after "decision 426" in the sixth line.

22. In the last line of paragraph 8, "the" should be deleted. The final clause of paragraph 20 should be amended to read "the conference should enable UNCTAD ...". In the fifth line of paragraph 29, "their" should be inserted before "external".

23. Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States of America), said that her delegation wished to register its reservations on the first, sixth and seventh preambular paragraphs and paragraphs 4 and 10 of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.73, because of its understanding of the meaning of the term "sustained economic growth" in the light of paragraph 6 of the Copenhagen Declaration.

24. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.73, as orally revised, was adopted.

25. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.17 was withdrawn.

26. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the note by the Secretary-General on negotiations on an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology, contained in document A/50/486.

27. It was so decided.

(c) UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II) (continued)

28. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the regional commissions on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at the regional level (A/50/411).

29. It was so decided.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE 1990S (continued)

Draft resolutions on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (A/C.2/50/L.31 and L.72)

30. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.72 contained in document A/C.2/50/L.77.

31. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.72, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.31. In the first line of paragraph 7, the word "problem" should be made plural.

32. Mr. MOMEN (Bangladesh), referring to the statement of programme budget implications, said that the current language of paragraph 12 of the draft resolution had been agreed upon at an informal meeting of the Second Committee in the presence of a representative of the Budget Division. At that meeting, it had been explained that one of the sources within the regular budget for defraying the cost of participation of the representatives of the least developed countries at the annual Trade and Development Board meetings to review the implementation of the Programme of Action was any unspent balances of appropriations for travel costs of representatives to the General Assembly and other relevant organs. If his delegation's understanding was correct, paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.77 addressed that matter by seeking an exception to the rules governing the payment of travel and subsistence allowances.

33. Secondly, paragraph 6 argued that, since resources had been budgeted for programmed activities under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, it would not be possible to reallocate resources from other areas of the budget. While not wishing to open a debate on that argument, his delegation pointed out that, should there be any reallocation within the budget during the course of the biennium, it should also apply to the request made in paragraph 12 of the draft resolution.

34. Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States of America) said that her delegation wished to register its reservations regarding paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, because of its understanding of the meaning of the term "sustained

economic growth and sustainable development" in the light of paragraph 6 of the Copenhagen Declaration.

35. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.72, as orally amended, was adopted.

36. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.31 was withdrawn.

37. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the note of the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action contained in document A/50/746.

38. It was so decided.

(i) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

Draft resolutions on observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (A/C.2/50/L.39 and L.80)

39. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.80, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.39, drew attention to two minor changes: in paragraph 10, the word "full" should be deleted; and, in paragraph 17, the word "seriously" should be replaced by "effectively".

40. Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Committee) said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

41. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.80, as orally revised, was adopted.

42. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.39 was withdrawn.

AGENDA ITEM 96: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/50/74 and Add.1, A/50/182-E/1995/66 and Corr.1, A/50/227-E/1995/99 and A/50/516; A/C.2/50/L.23, L.55 and L.78)

43. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should take note, under the chapeau of the item, of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (A/50/182-E/1995/66 and Corr.1).

44. It was so decided.

(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(b) DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT (continued)

Draft resolutions on the special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 (A/C.2/50/L.23 and L.78)

45. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.78, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.23.

46. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the statement of programme budget implications contained in A/C.2/50/L.82.

47. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.78 was adopted.

48. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.23 was withdrawn.

49. Ms. IRISH (Canada) said that her delegation welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution. The special session would provide an excellent opportunity to review progress made in implementing the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. She noted with satisfaction that the Commission on Sustainable Development was requested to make available to the special session all relevant reports prepared under its aegis. One of the Commission's most significant achievements had been the creation of an intergovernmental panel on forests. The panel's final report should therefore be considered at the special session, along with any relevant recommendations by the Commission. In his report to the special session, the Secretary-General should identify the critical areas in which change was required before sustainable development could be achieved. The goal of the special session, to be held less than 1,000 days before the beginning of the new millennium, must be to make progress in those critical areas.

50. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note, under sub-item (a), of the note by the Secretary-General on the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (A/50/74 and Add.1).

51. It was so decided.

(b) DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT (continued)

52. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should take note, under sub-item (b), of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the overall implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, including Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian Region (A/50/227-E/1995/99) and

of the report of the Secretary-General on observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought: Implementation of resolution 49/115 (A/50/516).

53. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 97: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/50/113 and Add.1 and A/50/421; A/C.2/50/L.79)

54. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should take note, under the chapeau of the item, of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "National execution of projects" (JIU/REP/94/9) (A/50/113 and Add.1).

55. It was so decided.

(a) TRIENNIAL POLICY REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (continued)

Draft resolution on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/C.2/50/L.79)

56. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.79, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations. In paragraph 22, the word "focus" should be replaced by the word "part".

57. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.79, as orally revised, was adopted.

58. Ms. LEBL (United States of America) said that the delivery of United Nations development assistance would be greatly enhanced by the outcomes of the triennial policy review. Specifically, the country strategy note had been established as an important common framework for United Nations programming. The authority of resident coordinators to ensure that country programmes and other projects undertaken by the United Nations agencies were consistent with the country strategy note and with national sustainable development strategies had been enhanced. In addition, the decision to assess staff members' contribution to United Nations system coordination as part of the staff appraisal procedure was an important step towards making individuals, as well as agencies, accountable for enhancing cooperation within the Organization.

59. Her Government did not, however, agree that increased funding was the only or preferred way of enhancing the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of operational activities, as stated in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution. Instead, attention must be focused on reform of the United Nations system through viable, realistic and cost-effective measures. Her Government would not agree to any increase in funding, other than through the redistribution of existing resources or through the provision of resources from sources other than Governments. Finally, she wished to register her delegation's reservation on the third preambular paragraph and, with regard to the use of the term "sustained economic growth" therein, she referred to the definition she had given earlier.

(b) ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

60. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note, under sub-item (b), of the report of the Secretary-General on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (A/50/421).

61. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 102: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/50/L.9, L.58 and L.81)

Draft resolutions on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/C.2/50/L.9 and L.58)

62. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.58, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.9. Lines 1 to 6 of paragraph 5, up to and including the words "population and development", should be deleted and replaced by the following text: "Endorses Economic and Social Council decision 1995/320 of 12 December 1995, by which it enlarged the membership of the Commission on Population and Development from 27 to 47 members, elected by the Economic and Social Council from among the Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies, in time to take part in the twenty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development, and that the regional representation will be 12 for Africa, 11 for Asia, 5 for Eastern Europe, 9 for Latin America and the Caribbean and 10 for Western Europe and other States, bearing in mind that Government representatives which are to serve on the Commission should have relevant background in population and development". Paragraph 7 of the draft resolution should be deleted.

63. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the statement of programme budget implications contained in A/C.2/50/L.81.

64. Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States of America) said that she wished to express her delegation's reservation on paragraph 15 and, with regard to the use of the term "sustained economic growth", she referred to the definition she had given earlier.

65. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.58, as orally revised, was adopted.

66. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.9 was withdrawn.

The meeting was suspended at 4.50 p.m. and resumed at 5.50 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 95: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued)

(h) BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on business and development (A/C.2/50/L.41/Rev.1)

67. Mr. DUGAN (United States of America) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.41/Rev.1, submitted on the basis of informal consultations. He proposed a number of corrections to the revised draft resolution. In the third line of the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "developing countries and" should be deleted. In the second line of paragraph 1, after the words "and medium-sized enterprises" the words "and industries" should be inserted. In the third line of paragraph 4, after the word "issues,", the remainder of the paragraph should be deleted and replaced by "the role of public administration in promoting partnership for development, public and private;". In the second line of paragraph 6, the words "determine a timetable" should be deleted and replaced by "consider the appropriate time-frame and procedure".

68. Mr. MONGBE (Benin), referring to the correction proposed by the sponsors to paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, said that the phrase "public and private", added at the end of the paragraph, was confusing, at least in the French version. He suggested that the English phrase should be expanded to read "involving the public and private sectors", which would be more meaningful.

69. Mr. DUGAN (United States of America) explained that several delegations had been confused about the meaning of the term "partnership" but had accepted inclusion of the phrase "public and private" as offering some clarification. The proposed revision had been drafted in that manner in the interests of concision. However, he was willing to consider a further revision, if necessary, in informal consultations.

70. Mr. YAMPOLSKY (Ukraine) said that his delegation wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

71. Mr. OJIMBA (Nigeria) said that he was in favour of following the suggestion made by the United States delegation that the issue be reconsidered during informal consultations.

72. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) suggested that the problem was one of translation and should be resolved on that basis.

73. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that the problem was one of substance and not merely a matter of translation. At stake was the whole question of development philosophy. Furthermore, he took issue with the Moroccan delegation's statement. Texts in other languages were not simply to be brought in line with the English text. All the official languages of the United Nations should be treated on an equal footing. He recalled that a resolution on multilingualism had already been adopted by the Organization.

74. Mr. BELHIMEUR (Algeria) suggested that the terms used in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 49/136 could be repeated.

75. Mr. DUGAN (United States of America) said that the solution proposed by Algeria had already been considered during informal consultations but had not been retained, since it did not focus sufficiently on the resumed meeting on business and development. Paragraph 4 had already been amended several times. Based on further consultations, a new wording had been agreed upon which he read to the Committee. The comma at the end of line 2 should be deleted and the end of the paragraph should read: "The issues contained in its agenda, including the role of public administration in promoting partnership for development;".

76. Draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.41/Rev.1, as orally amended, was adopted.

77. Mr. YUAN Shaofu (China) said that his country attached great importance to the issue of corrupt practices, including illicit payments. It believed that a sound code of conduct in international business transactions was essential for the promotion of economic and social development. However, the problem of illicit payments was only one of a series of important issues to be covered by such a code. The issue was complex and required careful consideration. Given the differences in the various national legal systems, the Economic and Social Council had been unable to reach consensus on the issue. Furthermore, there was a lack of relevant information to support the preparation for the discussions. His delegation therefore had serious reservations on the resolution.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.